

**SECRET**  
**NOFORN**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

OPERATIONAL AND SOURCE COVER SHEET

FROM: Germany, Frankfurt  
REPORT NO.: BDP-1828  
REPORT MADE BY: [ ]  
NUMBER PAGES: 2  
REPORT APPROVED BY: [ ]  
NUMBER ENCLOSURES: 3  
DATE OF REPORT: 30 March 1957  
DISTRIBUTION: 4-FOBO  
By copy to: 3-FOB  
2-BD1  
1-MOB  
2-WASH  
10-STRAJ  
3-CCA/Bonn  
REFERENCES:  
SOURCE CRYPTONYM: [ ]  
ID NO.: [ ]  
IG NO.: [ ]  
SOURCE, OPERATIONAL DATA, AND COMMENTS: [ ]  
CRYPTON, ☐ Yes ☐ No

PROJECT: Possible Candidates for the Post of Chairman of the  
Socialist International

CLASSIFICATION: B-2

DATE OF INFO: March 1957

DATE ACQUIRED:

11 March 1957

SOURCE OFFICER: [ ]

85 DISC PLANTIN: [ ] NOFORN

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODOSEXEMPTION 3028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

**SECRET**  
**NOFORN**

SECURITY INFORMATION

# FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A. Completely reliable. B. Usually reliable. C. Occasionally reliable. D. Not usually reliable. E. Unreliable. (Applied to sources of Confidentiality or loyalty, security of their cooperation. F. Reliability cannot be judged. (Applied to sources or insufficiently tested sources.)

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2. Probably true. 3. Possibly true. 4. Doubtful. 5. Probably false. 6. Cannot be judged. (Based on original content.)

S-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN

COUNTRY	International	REPORT NO.	REF-1028
SUBJECT	Possible Candidates for the Post of Chairman of the Socialist International	DATE OF REPORT	20 March 1957
		NO. OF PAGES	2
		REFERENCES	

DATE OF INFO. March 11 1957

PLACE ACQUIRED Germany, Frankfurt (11 March 1957)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FORTHWITH EXPLANATIONS.

SOURCE: Observer with contacts close to British Labour Party leadership (B)

## Appraisal of Contents: 2.

1. Morgan Phillips, Chairman of the Socialist International, announced at the meeting of the Bureau of the Socialist International on 1 March that he would not stand for re-election at the Socialist International Congress scheduled to be held in early July 1957. Commenting on this development, Alfred Nozer, delegate to the Bureau meeting from the Dutch Labor Party and Kay Rijkse, delegate from the Swedish Social Democratic Party, both agreed that Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the British Labour Party, would be the most acceptable person to succeed Phillips. Robert Pontillon, delegate of the French Socialist Party, who opposed the nomination of Gaitskell, advanced an alternate candidate Adolf Schnerf of the Socialist Party of Austria and Walter Bringolf of the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland. Otto Probst of the Socialist Party of Austria supported Pontillon's nominations.
2. Rijkse reported these developments to Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander. The latter approached Gaitskell on this subject at Amsterdam on 8 March, where both attended the congress of the Dutch Labor Party. Gaitskell requested that the matter be discussed further in London in the near future. He added that he did not know that Phillips had actually announced his intention to resign, although he was aware of the fact that Phillips was considering this action.
3. In discussing the replacement of Phillips, Erlander expressed his fear that the British Labour Party might propose Aneurin Bevan as a suitable candidate. Erlander is of the opinion that Bevan should not be allowed to play a role in the Socialist International.
4. Pierre Herbault and Robert Pontillon of the French Socialist Party, in separate conversations, both stated that they were completely opposed to the candidacy of Bevan. Pontillon stated that the French Socialist Party would leave the Socialist International if Gaitskell were named Chairman of the International. However, Pontillon indicated that James Griffiths, Deputy Leader of the British Labour Party, might

S-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN

DISTRIBUTION

COOD  
WASH

STWAT  
OCA/Bonn

NO FIELD DISSEMINATION

3-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN

DTF-1823

-2-

be an acceptable candidate. Herbault stated that he would discuss the entire question with Guy Mollet, whereas Pontillon merely stated that he would have to make soundings within his own party before being able to make a final statement on the subject.<sup>1</sup>

5. The candidacy of Bovan may still be under consideration by the British Labour Party, as Bovan will be a member of the British delegation to the Socialist International Congress in Vienna in July.

1. Source comment: The nature of these comments may indicate that Herbault enjoys a closer relationship with Mollet than does Pontillon.

3-E-C-R-E-T  
NOFORN